in the SAHMAT's booklet were tendentious and based on a particular ideological view point not supported by the findings of latest historical researches. As regards factual errors, which were primarily of editorial nature, necessary corrections have been made in the revised editions of the concerned books.

B.Ed. colleges in Andhra Pradesh

644. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent a proposal to the National Council for Technical Education for starting four new B.Ed. colleges in the State;

(b) if so, when the details thereof; and

(c) whether the approval to the proposal has since been given and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) There is no Council by the name of 'National Council for Technical Education'. However, there is a National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) which deals with issues relating to various Teacher Education Courses. Out of the 207 applications received by the National Council for Teacher Education, 161 institutions have been granted recognition by the Southern Regional Committee (SRC) of NCTE. Applications in respect of the remaining institutions have been rejected by the SRC as they were not found to have compiled with NCTE norms. However, on consideration of appeals filed under Section 18 of the NCTE Act, the Council has accepted/ remanded back the appeal of 7 such institutions for grant of recognition from 2002-2003 or 2003-04 depending on the admission schedule of the affiliating university, and subject to verification by the university authorities of the claims of the Institution regarding list of teachers and Principal.

Removal of Premchand's novel from class XII syllabus

645. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBSE has decided to remove the novel by the legendary litterateur Premchand from the class XII syllabus;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the CBSE has decided to replace Premchand's novel by a work of Mridula Sinha: and

(d) if so, the criteria for selecting literary works to be included in the school syllabus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHABHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) As per the information received from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the Committee of Courses in Hindi has recommended to continue Nirmla by Premchand and also to provide an alternative for 2004 Examinations. Accordingly, the novel "Jyon Mehandi Ke Rang" by Mridula Sinha has also been recommended by the Committee for 2004 Examination.

(d) The decision regarding the replacement, alternative and prescription of new textual materials is made by the Committee of courses in Hindi of CBSE.

FDI in education sector

646. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a lage number of Indian students are going abroad for higher studies;

(b) if so, the approximate number of students going abroad for higher education, per year;

(c) whether Government are considering Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the education sector in order to draw more foreign students to India and make more education institutions accessible to Indian students; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?